

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated August 2, 2004, the Examiner allowed claims 1, 4, and 6-10 and objected to claims 2, 3, 5, and 12-26 due to formal matters. The Examiner closed prosecution on the merits in accordance with the practice under *Ex Parte Quayle*. The objections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

The applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1, 4, and 6-10. The Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, 5, and 12-26 due to formal matters. In order to put the claims in condition for allowance, the applicants have amended each of claims 2, 3, 5, and 12-26 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that claims 2, 3, 5, and 12-26 may now be passed to allowance.

As the applicants have overcome all objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to the pending claims. Therefore, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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